

ENVIRONMENTAL FACT SHEET  
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

## **Univar Proposed Remedy Selection**

EPA recently completed a Corrective Measures Study for the Univar USA, Inc. facility (formerly Van Waters and Rogers) located at 3950 NW Yeon Avenue, Portland, Oregon. This fact sheet contains information about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) proposed cleanup under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

### **Public Comment Opportunity Available**

Your review and comment is invited on the Statement of Basis for the Proposed RCRA Remedy Selection for the Univar site. This Statement of Basis provides background information, discusses previous studies and outlines EPA's final corrective measures proposal. The Corrective Measures Study and other documents related to the project are also available for review.

Public comment will be accepted from August 24 to September 22, 2006. Following the public comment period, EPA will issue a final determination and, if substantive comments are received, a Response to Comments.

The Statement of Basis and Corrective Measures Study for the Univar site are available online at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/OWCM.NSF/CorrectiveAction/Remedy>.

You can also receive an e-mail or paper copy by request from Howard Orlean at 206-553-2851 or [orlean.howard@epa.gov](mailto:orlean.howard@epa.gov).

Comments should be submitted by the close of business on September 22, 2006. Comments should be sent to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue, AWT-121  
Seattle, WA 98101  
Attention: Mr. Howard Orlean

EPA will consider holding a public meeting or hearing if there is sufficient interest. If you are interested in attending a public meeting please call Howard Orlean at the above phone or e-mail prior to September 15, 2006.

### **Proposed Remedy Selected for Soil and Groundwater**

EPA proposes to select a corrective action to remove contamination from the site following the completion of a Corrective Measures Study that developed and evaluated a range of alternatives. The key elements of the proposed final remedy include:

- Extracting and treating soil contamination using a Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) system. Univar installed a small SVE system as part of an interim corrective measure in 1992. The small SVE system has performed well in removing contamination from subsurface soil. Under this final corrective action, the current SVE system would be expanded by adding 24 to 30 new SVE wells. The wells would be cycled in operation to maintain an optimum vapor flow rate of 200 to 400 cubic feet per minute.
- Extracting and treating groundwater by installing three new wells in the source area that would pump approximately seven gallons per minute. Extracted groundwater would be treated with a system that includes an air-stripper, pre-treatment and filtration, and a vapor treatment system.
- Monitoring groundwater in areas that are recovering naturally at the perimeter of the site.
- Using institutional controls to limit the use of shallow groundwater and restrict site activities such as excavation that could result in exposure.
- Using engineering controls like maintaining the paved surfaces at the site which act as a barrier, preventing direct contact with contamination and minimizing infiltration of water.

### **What is the problem and who is at risk?**

Soil and groundwater at the site were contaminated by four chemical releases at the facility reported between 1979 and 1985, including spills of trichloroethene (TCE), methylene chloride and toluene. In addition, small quantities of other chemicals were released during bulk chemical handling and transfer activities. Without cleanup, indoor and outdoor workers at or near the site could be placed at risk contamination by inhaling vapors or touching tainted soil.

### **Background**

The 9.5-acre Univar facility has been operating since 1947 for bulk chemical packaging, storage and distribution. Univar was formerly known as Van Waters and Rogers. The site is fenced and includes a 2-acre warehouse and loading dock area, a rail spur, and above ground storage tanks. More than 90 percent of the site is covered with buildings and pavement.

Univar handles a wide range of industrial chemicals at the facility, including a variety of organic solvents, acids and bases, ammonia and other materials. From 1983 to 1987, Univar recycled used solvents and stored limited volumes of hazardous wastes associated with the recycling process.

## **What has been done to clean up the site?**

In 1988, EPA issued a cleanup order to Van Waters and Rogers to conduct a site investigation, conduct a corrective measures study and implement interim corrective measures. An initial investigation was completed in 1993. Interim corrective measures based on the results of the 1993 study included installing a soil vapor extraction system to remove subsurface contamination. Field investigation also indicated the need to keep groundwater from migrating from the site towards the Willamette River. Construction of the groundwater system began in 2001.

## **What is a Corrective Measures Study?**

A Corrective Measures Study (CMS) Report documents how corrective action alternatives were developed and evaluated. The CMS evaluated and compiled a list of potentially applicable technologies for the Univar facility and then developed these measures into eleven preliminary corrective action alternatives. These preliminary alternatives were further refined into six final alternatives that met the objectives of :

- Protecting human health and the environment;
- Attaining cleanup objectives for current and anticipated uses
- Cleanup known sources of contamination that where a further release that might pose threats to human health or the environment.

The six final alternatives were also evaluated individually and then ranked on the additional balancing criteria:

- Long-term Reliability and Effectiveness;
- Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume;
- Short-term Effectiveness;
- Implementability
- Cost.

The CMS Report recommended the alternative discussed above. EPA is proposing to select this remedy as the final cleanup measure for the site. EPA's reasoning is described in the Statement of Basis dated August 24, 2006.

## **For Additional Information:**

The Statement of Basis, the Final Draft CMS Report and other project documents that were used as the source of information for this Statement of Basis are available for review at the following locations:

In Portland:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Oregon Operations Office  
811 SW 6th Ave, 3rd Floor  
Portland, OR 97204

In Seattle:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 10 Library  
1200 Sixth Avenue, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Seattle, WA 98101  
Hours: 9 AM – Noon and 1 – 2:30 PM Monday through Friday

You are also welcome to call or e-mail for information

Howard Orlean, EPA Project Manager  
206-553-2851  
Toll free in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska – (800) 424-4EPA  
[orlean.howard@epa.gov](mailto:orlean.howard@epa.gov)

Judy Smith, EPA Community Outreach and Public Information  
503-326-6994  
[smith.judy@epa.gov](mailto:smith.judy@epa.gov)

*For alternative formats, please contact Judy Smith. TTY users, please call the Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339.*